

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted simultaneously with filing of the above identified application.

In the Final Action the Examiner rejected claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the patent to Sakane, et al.

Claims 16-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over the patent to Sakane in view of the patent to Kusase.

With the present Amendment applicants have amended claims 15 and 16 to more clearly define the present invention and to distinguish it from the prior art.

Claim 15 specifically defines that in a claw pole generator, the claw pole interstices 36 are formed between the claw poles 28 and the claw poles 29, and the claw pole interstices are open radially inwardly, and the retaining means 34 is disposed at least partly in the radially inwardly open interstices 36 and is radially outwardly unobstructed.

Turning now to the patent to Sakane applied by the Examiner as anticipatory against original claim 15, it can be seen that the retaining means disclosed in this reference is radially encircled by all of the claws of the pole wheel half and the pole carrier. In contrast, as defined in the amended claim 15, the retaining means 34 of the applicant's inventive claw pole generator is located in the radially open claw pole interstices between the first claw poles 28 and second claw poles 29, and the retaining means is located in such interstices and is radially outwardly unobstructed by any part of the claw pole generator.

These features of the present invention are not disclosed in the patent to Sakane, and also these features can not be derived from this reference as a matter of obviousness. The patent to Kusase also does not teach these new features of the present invention, and therefore it is believed that the combination of the references applied by the Examiner against some original dependent claims should be considered as not tenable with respect to the amended claim 15, and therefore claim 15 should be allowed.

Claim 16 which depends on claim 15 additionally defines that the first claw poles 28 and the second claw poles 29 have claw pole flanks

which circumferentially face toward one another, and the retaining means 34 extend between two claw pole flanks of the neighboring first 28 and second 29 claw poles and is in circumferential contact with the two claw pole flanks of the two neighboring first 28 and second 29 claw poles, and also is connected to the claw pole flanks.

These features of the present invention are also not disclosed either in the patent to Sakane, or in the patent to Kusase. Therefore, it is believed that claim 16 should also be considered as patentably distinguishing over the art not only because it depends on the presumably allowable claim 15, but also because it contains a patentable subject matter per se.

As for the other claims, the dependent claims share their presumably allowable features of the independent claim and therefore they should be considered as allowable as well.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application is most respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in

formal respects in order to place this case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendments or corrections be carried out by Examiner's Amendment, and the case be passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, he is invited to telephone the undersigned (at 631-549-4700).

Respectfully submitted,



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